

REMARKS

The declaration has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.67(a) on the ground that it is not signed. In response to this ground of objection, Applicants note, however, that a signed declaration was submitted with Applicants' Response to the Notice to File Missing Parts, on October 12, 2001. A copy of the Missing Parts Transmittal, together with the attached executed Declaration, as well as the stamped postcard evidencing receipt of the submission at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are attached hereto. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected because it is not in the format customary according to U.S. practice. In response to this ground of objection, Applicants have amended the specification to insert appropriate headings, as indicated by the Examiner at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In addition, Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure, a copy of which is attached hereto on a separate page, as required.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bhatia (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,699). However, for the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 13-24, which are currently pending in this application distinguish over the Bhatia reference.

The present application currently contains two independent claims (13 and 24). Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the access point identifying means "identifies the access point at which the signal has been received, by determining an IP source address of the signal and correlating it with the mobile station's user's identity." Claim 24 is a method claim, which has been similarly amended. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 3.

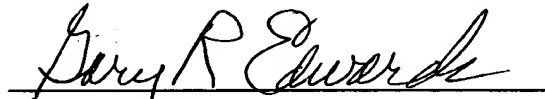
The Bhatia reference does not teach or suggest a system in which an access point identifying means identifies the access point at which the signal has been received by determining an IP source address for the signal and correlating it with the mobile station's user's identity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 13 and 24, and therefore all claims of record in this application distinguish over Bhatia.

The present invention provides a method and apparatus which afford a convenient way by which IP-type networks may identify an access point serving a user, in order to provide that user with location specific information. Bhatia contains no suggestion of such a system. Indeed, Bhatia relates to a mobile phone cellular network, and thus could not be modified to make use of IP source addresses in the manner defined by the claims, without substantial inventive activity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that the claims currently contained herein distinguish over Bhatia and are patentable.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3036/50260).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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